CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

ENDC/158*
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BRAZIL, BURMA, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, MEXICO, NIGERIA, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC.

Joint Memorandum on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Disarmament Commission of the United Nations adopted Resolution DC/225 on 15 June, 1965, with an overwhelming majority and, inter alia, "convinced that failure to conclude a universal treaty or agreement to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons leads to the most serious consequences", recommended that the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee should "also accord special priority to the consideration of the question of a treaty or convention to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, giving close attention to the various suggestions that agreement could be facilitated by adopting a programme of certain related measures."

The delegations of Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic have been deeply concerned with this problem. They have noted with satisfaction that the other members of the Committee also expressed their anxiety in regard to this problem. The delegations of the NATO countries represented in the Committee have submitted a draft treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The non-aligned delegations regret, however, that it has not yet been possible to reconcile the various approaches for an appropriate or adequate treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In these circumstances, the delegations of Brazil, Burma. Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic believe that it would be of advantage if they placed on record their basic approach to the question of non-proliferation. A treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is not an end in itself but only a means to an end. That end is the achievement of General and Complete Disarmament, and, more particularly, nuclear disarmament. The eight delegations are convinced that measures to prohibit the spread of nuclear weapons should, therefore, be coupled with or followed by tangible steps to halt the nuclear arms race and to limit, reduce and eliminate the stocks of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery.

The delegations of Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic express the hope that their basic approach concerning a non-proliferation treaty as put forward in the foregoing paragraphs will receive general acceptance so that a draft treaty on prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons receives the support of the entire international community.

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